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edges equally so, and that the implement as made was intended for penetration rather than cutting, but necessarily by the aid of a handle, inasmuch as the base has a roughly chipped edge, which would prevent its being used effectively if simply held in the hand. Certainly as a simple cutting implement or hatchet it would not have been pointed. This supposed use of these specimens, as described, is confirmed by the discovery lately of three specimens of such implements in Indian graves. Each of these chipped flints had evidently been inserted into long bones (femora) of some large mammal. The bones themselves had so nearly decayed that only minute fragments could be gathered, but the outline was distinguishable as the relic lay in the ground. Two of these specimens of flint teeth had evidently been wrought *de novo* from the mineral; the other was as evidently the pointed half of a lance-head, or hoe, the base being a single surface, showing that the specimen had there been broken directly in two. Somewhat confirmatory also of this view of the use of such relics is the fact that of the broken specimens of "lance-heads" found lying on the surface of the ground, the vast majority are the bases; the points having been gathered and utilized, I believe, in the manner suggested. War-clubs of wood, armed with a metal tooth, are now seen among the Indians. Catlin, in his North American Indians, vol. ii., plate 150, figures such an one, and frequently refers to them throughout that work. Prior to the introduction of metals, war-clubs were of course common, but armed with stone instead of iron. The jasper implements above described, I doubt not, were the forerunners of the metal teeth of the modern club. — CHARLES C. ABBOTT, M. D.

OPENING OF A ROYAL BURIAL MOUND IN DENMARK. — The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen has recently published a beautifully illustrated folio volume containing a description of a royal burial mound or barrow, with translations of the Runic inscriptions on stones, at Jellinge, of the time of the royal pair, Gorm and Thyra.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

THE EARLIEST EDENTATES (SLOTHS). — The earliest sloths hitherto known have occurred in the Miocene Tertiary. Professor Gaudry has recently announced to the French Academy traces of the existence of edentate mammals at the beginning of the Miocene epoch. The remains consist of a first phalanx and an ungueal phalanx, which seem to come from the same finger. He places this new animal in the genus *Ancylotherium*, with the specific name of *priscus*. The fossils have been found in the same bed, suggesting that the edentate in question has lived at the time of the lower Miocene as well as at the last phase of the Eocene.

A FOSSIL SIRENIAN ANIMAL IN JAMAICA. — The former existence, in Jamaica of an animal of this group, rather smaller than the manatee is indicated by the skull and atlas vertebra, described by Professor Owen under the name of *Prorastomus sirenoides* in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London.*

GEOLOGY OF NEW CALEDONIA. — In an article on the metallic mines of New Caledonia, by Rev. W. B. Clarke, besides a notice of the mines of chromic iron and nickel, there is given, in *La Revue Scientifique,* a *résumé* of the geology of these islands.

GEOGRAPHY AND EXPLORATION.

UNITED STATES COAST AND INTEROCEANIC SURVEYS. — The late annual report of Commodore Ammen, Chief of Bureau of Navigation, states that the work of geographically determining as many points as are supposed necessary, in Central America and in the West Indies, was prosecuted last year by the United States steamer Fortune, and this year by the Gettysburg. The longitude of Panama, Aspinwall, Santiago de Cuba, and Havana have been determined by means of the telegraph. The work now in course of completion will include points on the Windward Islands and the northern coast of South America. The survey of the outer coast of the Peninsula of Lower California, and that of the Gulf of California, had been concluded by Commander George Dewey, commanding the Narragansett. The gulf was previously unsurveyed, but has now been sufficiently examined and determined for the safety of navigation. Commander A. J. Mahan, commanding the Wasp, has made much-needed surveys at the mouth of the Rio de la Plata.

It is recommended that when a vessel can be spared for the purpose from those employed on the North Pacific Station, a running survey be made of the coast of Gautemala. This would render the surveys (of different values) continuous from Behring's Straits to Cape Horn. Since completing the lines of deep-sea soundings in the Pacific Ocean for cable purposes, another line has been run by the United States steamer Tuscarora, under the command of Commander Herber, from San Francisco to the Sandwich Islands, and some soundings were also made on the return of the said vessel from the Navigator Islands to Honolulu.

In regard to interoceanic surveys, this work, which has been carefully prosecuted for five seasons by two or more parties from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to twenty or more miles south of the mouth of the Napipi, on the River Atrato, is at length satisfactorily accomplished. Since the last report a careful survey of the Isthmus of Panama has been made, the computations completed, and the whole placed before the Interoceanic Canal Commission.

THE TUNDRAS OF SIBERIA. — The prevalent idea that the plains of Siberia are frozen the year around is dispelled by Nordenskiöld in his account of his Siberian journey, to be found in *Nature.* "We were yet far north of the Arctic Circle, and as many imagine that the region we had now passed through, the so little known tundra of Siberia, is a desert waste,